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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gul: Greek Cypriots Take the EU Hostage - Aksam
EU a 'Toy' of the Greek Cypriots - Milliyet
Lagendijk: Military, Nationalists and the PKK Toughen
Turkey's EU Drive - Aksam
Non-Muslim Minorities: Turkey Treats Us Like 'Outsiders' -
Milliyet
PKK Checkpoints in Talabani-Controlled Areas in Northern
Iraq - Vatan
Basrans Revolt, Set to Fire British Tanks - Star
Merkel Under Pressure to Resign - Vatan
Merkel Invites Schroeder to Coalition - Sabah
The Guardian: Merkel's Turkey Policy a 'Disgrace' - Star
Americans Flee Rita after Katrina - Sabah
Vatican Shelters War Criminal Croat General Gotovina -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

EU Surrenders to the Greek Cypriots - Radikal
Talat: EU Disregards Turkish Cypriots - Cumhuriyet
The Waning of Merkel's CDU in Germany - Zaman
The Independent: The US is Behind Suicide Attacks in Iraq -
Yeni Safak
Four Iraqis Wounded in Tuzhurmatu Brought to Turkey for
Medical Treatment - Zaman
PKK Kills 11 Troops in One Month - Zaman
Al-Zawahiri: Taliban Still Strong in Afghanistan -
Cumhuriyet
EU to Take Iran's Nuclear Program to UN - Cumhuriyet
A Second Hurricane Alarm in the US - Yeni Safak
Nazi 'Hunter' Wiesenthal Dies - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Rice-Gul Discuss the PKK, EU/Turkey, Cyprus: Foreign
Minister Abdullah Gul discussed with US Secretary of State
Condoleezza Rice Iraq, the PKK and Cyprus at a meeting in
New York yesterday, Turkish diplomatic sources told the semi-
official "Anatolian Agency" (AA). Secretary Rice told Gul
that intervention against the PKK in northern Iraq is a
matter of 'timing, not principle,' saying that the US shared
the views of Turkey regarding the terrorist organization.
The US is more prepared to take concrete steps against the
PKK, diplomatic sources said, adding that both the US and
Turkey underlined that they have been engaged in a
'comprehensive partnership.' Rice assured Gul that the US
will maintain support to Turkey's EU membership bid. The
two sides also discussed steps to be taken to remove
international sanctions against Turkish Cyprus. On the
other hand, FM Gul did not attend the reception hosted by
the foreign ministers of the EU and NATO in New York, says
the AA.

Military Vehicles in Iskenderun Port Belong to Iraqi Army:
The first transfer of weapons to Iraq through Turkey's
Mediterranean port city of Iskenderun was made in April 18,
2004, reports "Cumhuriyet." Among the many vehicles that
were ferried into Iraq in the last 1.5 years were 1,193
jeeps, 453 trailers and 42 cranes. Also, 72 panzers were
sent to the Iraqi army by an unknown donor. The Iskenderun
Port customs officials said the transfers were made after
approval by Turkish security units. The Iskenderun Maritime
Trade Chamber chairman Bulent Kavsak said that the military
vehicles in the port belonged to the Iraqi army, not to the
US. Vehicles come from Ukraine, and they are being
transferred to the newly structured Iraqi army, Kavsak said.
He noted that explosives, acid anhydride and dynamite were
imported by four Turkish companies, which distribute them to
Ankara, Bursa and Kayseri in Turkey.
CHP Submits Motion on US Materiel that Passes through

Iskenderun Port: The main opposition CHP lawmaker from Hatay, Gokhan Durgun, asked in a motion to the parliament if the US has been transporting military vehicles, equipment and explosives from the Iskenderun Port to Iraq under the 'disguise of' humanitarian aid, the semi-official "Anatolian Agency" (AA) reported Tuesday. Durgun said that such shipment would be illegal given the Turkish parliament's March 1, 2003, decision, asking whether the materiel transported from Iskenderun was used in the massacre of civilians in Iraq.

PKK Sets Up Checkpoint near Suleymaniye: Turkish papers report the "Turkmeneli TV" as saying that PKK members have established checkpoints near the town of Sengesser in Suleymaniye province in northern Iraq, stopping vehicles and checking identifications. The sign 'Democratic Solution Party of Kurdistan' and posters of the PKK's imprisoned leader Ocalan hang in a PKK camp near Sengesser. Vehicles are checked by the peshmerge loyal to Talabani and later by PKK members before they enter the area. "Turkmeneli TV" showed the footage of the PKK checkpoint set up in a region controlled by the PUK, say papers.

PKK Extends Cease-Fire until October 3: The PKK on Wednesday extended a one-month suspension of its unilateral cease-fire until October 3, the date set for Ankara to begin talks on joining the European Union, the Germany-based "Mesopotamian News Agency" reported. The PKK called for a one-month long 'inaction' on August 20 after Prime Minister Erdogan acknowledged in a speech in Diyarbakir the existence of a 'Kurdish problem' in Turkey. The Turkish military ignored the PKK call and operations against the rebels have continued. 'We call on the PM to evaluate the period until October 3 for a democratic solution,' a PKK statement said.

Gul Criticizes the EU for Tolerating Nicosia: On Tuesday, the Greek Cypriot administration pulled back its support for the EU declaration to counter Turkey's refusal to recognize Cyprus, insisting on adding references regarding the declaration to the EU framework document that outlined a negotiation plan for Turkey, papers report. By doing so, Nicosia wants to make the EU counter-declaration legally binding for Turkey. If no agreement is worked out today, the discussions will continue at a special meeting of EU foreign ministers on September 26. Ankara is concerned that the discussions may be delayed until October 3 if a compromise is not reached on September 26. Foreign Minister Gul criticized the EU for allowing Cyprus to dictate policy toward Turkey, adding that the UN is the venue to seek a resolution of the Cyprus problem. 'The results of the twin referenda last year showed that it is the Greek Cypriots who do not want a compromise and solution in Cyprus,' Gul stressed. The FM accused the Greek Cypriots of attempting to 'by-pass' the UN.

Controversial Armenian Conference to be Held in Istanbul: A controversial conference on Armenians in the decline of the Ottoman Empire, previously scheduled to happen on May 25, will be held at Istanbul's Bogazici University September 23-25, papers report. It was postponed after receiving criticism, the strongest coming from the government spokesman Cemil Cicek who defined the gathering as being equal to 'stabbing' Turkey in the back. Prominent Turkish academics, writers and researchers Serif Mardin, Murat Belge, Halil Berktag, Ustun Erguder, Nazan Maksudyan and Hrant Dink are among the participants of the conference. Several workshops will discuss issues such as 'Order before the Balkan Wars,' 'Breaking Point: 1912-1915,' 'Relocation and Aftermath,' 'Disaster and Stories of Rescue' and 'Memoirs.' Two panel discussions will be held on the last day of the conference on 'Press Freedom' and 'Today and the Future'.

Turkey Sends 400,000 USD of Humanitarian Aid to Tal Afar: Turkey sent ten trucks of humanitarian aid to the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar, the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) said on Tuesday. Food, potable water, medicine, tents and medical equipment worth 400,000 USD were sent to Tal Afar in cooperation with the MFA, Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (Kizilay).

Gul to Chair Anti-Terror Board Meeting: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul will chair the meeting of the 'High Board for Combating Terrorism' scheduled to take place on Tuesday, papers report. Gul, in New York for the UN General Assembly meetings, will return to Turkey on Sunday. Reports say that the structure of the board has been changed in response to a proposal from the Turkish General Staff (TGS) to set up a special center to coordinate the struggle against terrorism. A special channel for communication among intelligence and security institutions will be formed in the council. The deputy chief of the TGS, General Isik Kosaner, and the interior, justice and defense ministers as well as Prime Ministry U/S Omer Dincer, jandarma commander, the Turkish Intelligence Organization (MIT) U/S and the Turkish police

chief will join the discussions on Tuesday.

Kurdish Representatives Want Federation in Turkey: Representatives of the Kurdish party 'Hak-Par' and Kurdish association 'Kurt-Der' paid visits to the EU mission, the parliament and the British Embassy in Ankara to voice demands for a federation in Turkey, papers report. A lawyer in the group said that a democratic, pluralistic and federal system would fit Turkey better, adding that their campaign had been based on such demands.

ECHR to Hear Case on Non-Muslim Foundations in Turkey: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on Tuesday took up a complaint by two non-Muslim minority foundations saying that the Turkish state should give back foundation assets seized in the 1990s, "Radikal" reports. Foundation lawyers claimed that Turkey violated the Lausanne Treaty and treated its nationals like 'aliens.' Turkey will be cornered if the ECHR rules that the provision on non-discrimination was violated, says the report.

Pope Will Not be Allowed to Pray at Ayasofya: A senior Turkish official said Tuesday that Pope Benedict XVI will not be allowed to pray at Istanbul's Hagia Sofia museum (Ayasofya), which was used formerly as a church and then as a mosque, stressing that such a move will trigger demands from Muslims to do likewise. Ankara has invited the Pope to visit Turkey next year. Turkish TV reports US State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli as saying that a visit by the Vatican to Turkey is a matter 'that concerns the Government of Turkey and the Holy See.' 'I leave it to those two parties to talk about their plans or their intentions to have visits. I am not in the position to do that,' Ereli said.

International PEN Calls for an End to Publisher Zarakolu's Trials: The "Armenian News Network" (ANN) reported that the members of International PEN, the world association of writers, protested the decision to take to court one of Turkey's most prominent authors, Orhan Pamuk, for 'insulting' comments against the Turkish state. His trial is due to open in mid-December. A Turkish human rights activist, publisher Ragip Zarakolu, will be brought before courts three times in three separate cases. On September 20 an Istanbul court will hear arguments against Zarakolu's publication of George Jerjian's book 'History Will Free All of Us/Turkish-Armenian Conciliation.' The book is said to be 'insulting' to the memory of Kemal Ataturk by suggesting that leading government figures close to Ataturk were responsible for the mass deportation of Armenians in 1915. The next day, another hearing will be held, this time for Zarakolu's publication of a book by Professor Dora Sakayan, 'An Armenian Doctor in Turkey: Garabed Hatcherian: My Smyrna Ordeal of 1922.' On October 11, Zarakolu will again appear in court for an article published in 2003 entitled, 'Sana Ne' (Of No Interest) that criticized Turkey's policy towards the Kurds in Iraq. International PEN is deeply disappointed that, despite further changes to the Penal Code, there remains repression of freedom of expression in Turkey. PEN calls on the Turkish authorities to make further reviews of articles contained in the Penal Code that breach the international standards to which Turkey is committed. ANN calls readers to send appeals to PM Erdogan and Justice Minister Cemil Cicek, protesting the fact that Zarakolu is on trial in direct denial of his rights as guaranteed under the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, to which the Turkish government is a signatory.

Turkey to Give Wounded Iraqis Medical Treatment: On Tuesday, four Iraqis wounded in a bomb attack in Tuzhurmatu near Kirkuk in northern Iraq were sent to Turkey via the southeastern Habur border-crossing to receive medical treatment, papers report. The Iraqis were wounded in a blast which killed 11 and injured 24 after Friday prayers in Tuzhurmatu on September 16. Turks keep several ambulances at Habur waiting to treat other Iraqis whom may be sent to Turkey, say reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION: German Election

"The Division of Germany"
Mim Kemal Oke argued in the conservative "Tercuman" (9/21): "Merkel's election strategy was based on 'Turkey-phobia.' It did not work, and even had a backlash for her. Schroeder has managed to attract Turkish votes, which helped him to gain some additional votes. . Generally speaking, the election results indicate a real political division in Germany. In the post 9/11 period, neo-con militarist policies in the US caused a clear division in America both philosophically and culturally. Similarly, in the aftermath of the general elections, Germany faces a division because of the culturally racist politics pursued by the Christian Democrats. Just like in the US, Germany now has two blocs: Those who are supportive of multi-cultural and democratic

values and those who are insisting on having a new identity shaped by racist and religious concepts. Germany is now going through a new kind of Berlin Wall situation, not a physical one but a wall in the minds of its people."

"Elections Brought a Chance"

Hadi Uluengin commented in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (9/21): "The election results in Germany caused uncertainty not only to the country's future but to all of Europe as well. The current political picture of Germany makes it more difficult than before to bring clarity to the fate of the European Constitution, which has already been rejected by France and the Netherlands, in either the short or mid term. The nature of the German coalition unfortunately will not change this fact regardless of who comes to power. In the current situation, the EU engine--a combination of Germany and France--will not be as strong as it used to be. . On the other hand, the current situation gives a chance to Turkey in the upcoming negotiations with the EU. The EU is set to start the negotiation process with Turkey on October 3, as scheduled. It is very likely that the negotiation process will go smoothly without major up and downs until the elections in France in 2007. In any case, Turkey should be patient, tolerant and determined during this process, and should refrain from acting emotionally at all times."

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